

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05182 121157Z
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TAGS:

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. ALL PAPERS AUGUST 12 GIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO VANCE RETURN TO DAMASCUS AUGUST 11. MAIN HEADLINES IN TISHRINE AND THAWRA DEVOTED TO VANCE MISSION, WHILE BAATH GIVES PRIMARY FOCUS TO CHTOURA AGREEMENT. TYPICAL WAS THAWAR'S BANNER: "VANCE INFORMED PRESIDENT ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN THE AREA. AT END OF HIS TOUR AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE DECLARES: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL FUNDAMENTAL."

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THREE DAMASCUS DAILIES CHARACTERIZE VANCE MISSION AS UNSUCCESSFUL, AND PUT BLAME ON ISRAEL. MOHAMMAD MONSOUR, WRITING IN BAATH, SAYS THAT MISSION FOUNDERED IN ISRAEL BECAUSE VANCE IN-

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SISTED ON PUTTING THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED, AND THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE ISREELIS. MANSOUR CONCLUDES: "VANCE ADMITTED THAT HE COULD NOT GET ANY CONCESSION FROM ISRAEL REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE WEST BANK. IS THIS NOT ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY VIS-A-VIS

ISRAEL, ASSUMING THAT WASHINGTON IS REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT ESTABLISHING PEACE...?"

3. JUBRAN KOURRIYEH, WRITING IN TISHRINE, ALSO AS-
SERTS THAT VANCE MISSION HAS NOT MET WITH SUCCESS, BUT
CONCLUDES: "THE AMERICAN EFFORT IS ACCEPTED AND WEL-
COME IF IT SUCCEEDS IS MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
PROCESS OF PEACE. YET IS IS NOT THE ONLY EFFORT, AND
NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ROLE OF THE U.N."

4. MOHAMMAD ZARROUF OF THAWRA BELIEVES U.S. SHOULD
APPLY MORE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO BRING ABOUT CON-
CESSIONS. HE WRITES: "IF THE U.S. IS SINCERE IN
PLAYING THE ROLE OF A NEUTRAL INTERMEDIARY IN THE
DISPUTE SHE SHOULD EXERT THE NECESSARY PRESSURE ON ISRAEL
TO YIELD TO THE DESIRE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
AND ACCEPT THE UN RESOLUTIONS..."
KEITH

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